



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: June 24, 2021

Agenda Item: Fall 2021–Winter 2022 Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 60 Minutes

Background: The department is proposing four regulation changes to furbearers and trapping as outlined below.

Otter

- Within Trapping District 1, A) increase the total harvest quota of river otter from 28 to 40 and B) increase the personal quota from 3 to 4 otters/trapper.
- Within Trapping District 2, A) increase the total harvest quota of river otter from 25 to 40 and B) increase the personal quota from 3 to 4 otters/trapper.

Other

- Clarify that all non-target captures are to be reported to FWP, including traps and snares.
- Adjust restrictions on trapping near Occupied Dwellings to read: *Killing ground sets, including all snares, set for animals larger than ground squirrels are unlawful within 1000 feet of an occupied dwelling without written notification to the inhabitant.*

Public Involvement Process and Results: If adopted, public comment will be accepted at this meeting and until 5 p.m., July 26, 2021. Department personnel discussed this proposal with members of the Montana Trappers Association, Montana Fur Harvesters, and unaffiliated trappers in Region 1 and the proposal has support.

Alternatives and Analysis: The commission may choose to adopt or amend the department proposal.

Agency Rationale and Recommendation: The department recommends adopting this proposed increase in quota for river otter in Trapping District 1 and 2 and the clarification on reporting non-target captures. Harvest, occupied range, and personal professional experience indicates that the river otter population may sustain increased harvest without detrimental population effects. The clarification on reporting all non-target captures ensures FWP awareness of these captures regardless of the tool used in the capture. The modification to restrictions on trapping near occupied dwellings is meant to clarify that small killing traps (including mouse traps) commonly used in domestic environments do not require notification of neighbors.

Proposed Motion:

I move that the commission vote to adopt for public comment the fall 2021–winter 2022 trapping seasons and quotas as presented by the department with all other aspects regarding prior seasons included, except for those influenced by routine calendar rotations or by other proposals currently before the commission.